



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY PREPARES DISASTER PLANNING DOCUMENT *Countywide Plan to Cover Natural and Man-made Disasters*

A countywide plan that identifies risks posed by natural and man-made disasters – and ways to minimize potential damage before those disasters occur – is currently being prepared by the County of San Diego and representatives from the region's 18 cities (Hazard Mitigation Working Group). The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all local governments to create such a disaster plan in order to qualify for funding in the future. A grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency has allowed the County to hire a consultant, URS Corp., to assist in the creation of San Diego County's plan.

The County, assisted by its consultant, is holding a series of workshops to gather suggestions from the public. The workshops will include a presentation of the risk analysis prepared for the potential hazards that were identified as regionally important to the Hazard Mitigation Working Group. These public workshops will be held at various locations throughout the County over a three-week period as follows:

- NORTH COUNTY:** Thursday, January 22nd - 5-8 pm
San Marcos Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos
- EAST COUNTY:** Tuesday, January 27th - 5-8 pm
El Cajon Community Center, 195 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon
- SAN DIEGO CITY (South):** Wednesday, January 28th - 5-8 pm
Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library, Community Room
5148 Market St., San Diego
- SOUTH COUNTY:** Thursday, January 29th - 5-8 pm
Public Works Corporate Yard Lunch Room
1800 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista
- SAN DIEGO CITY (North):** Wednesday, February 4th - 5-8 pm
Scripps Ranch Branch Library, Community Room
10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego

"Public input into this process is very important and residents are encouraged to attend the workshops, make comments and ask questions. Without ideas from the public, the plan will not be nearly as effective; we are counting on a high degree of public participation to help shape this plan," said Deborah Steffen, Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

The planning document will focus on potential impacts of disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods, along with human-caused hazards including terrorist attacks. The plan, once complete, must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors and the respective City Councils.

San Diego County is one of the first in the state to tackle this planning effort on a regionwide basis, and the County's plan will likely be considered a model for other agencies to follow. Contact Herman Reddick at the Office of Emergency Services at (858) 565-3490 or go to the OES Website: <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/oes/resources/hazardmit/index.html> for more information.

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